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C. F. BROWN, Business Manager,.....Alma  
C. F. BROWN, Editor.

#### Popular Education.

The institutes of public school teachers do not receive as much attention from the people as they deserve. These institutes are really of more interest and importance than the political meetings to which the people give preference of consideration, and it is to be regretted for many and substantial considerations that so much indifference exists with regard to their proceedings. It is true to say that the education of the masses is indispensable to the security and progress of our system of government. The idea of popular sovereignty carries with it the implication of popular intelligence and a gradual increase of the aggregate sum of useful knowledge. At least nine-tenths of the children of the country only such obtain education as is provided by the public schools, and it follows that the influence of these schools in all the fields of ordinary employment surpasses that of any other one agency. The functions of the teachers have a direct and serious relation to the common welfare and prosperity. They are not less worthy of support and honor, when their work is well done, than the statesmen who make our laws and the commanders who win our battles. Their service is of a kind that affects the very foundations of society, and goes to the shaping of national character and national destiny, not in one respect alone, but in an inclusive and complete sense.

It is easy to see, therefore, that a gathering of public school teachers has a highly important meaning, and should not be lightly regarded. We derive from such gatherings our best information as to the condition and prospects of the cause of education in its broad and practical significance.

Those who attend the meetings of these bodies, however, or read the reports of the proceedings with sufficient care to comprehend them, will find that while the public schools are generally believed to be operating successfully, they are not coming up to their possibilities. It is an unpopular assertion to make, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that the vast amount of money appropriated for the education of the masses does not produce the best attainable results. The teachers themselves tacitly admit as much by pointing out how numerous improvements could be made. They do not acknowledge any fault on their own part; and yet there is reason to believe that some of their methods and tendencies are decidedly hurtful. Certainly their theory of arbitrary classification, for instance, has the effect, often, of suppressing as much talent as it develops. The pupils are forced thereby to a common level and a uniform process of mental growth, as so many animals are fattened for market. There is a constant waste of intellectual energy on account of this lack of discrimination as to different degrees and kinds of capacity, and mediocrity accordingly becomes the rule, with no chance for superiority to make its due progress and gain its just advantage. Other defects and drawbacks might be mentioned. Sources of complaint are numerous, and it is not a sufficient answer to say that the schools deserve praise for their present measure of effectiveness when the opportunities to make them very much better are persistently neglected.

The special commissioner sent to this country by the London Chronicle to investigate the Venezuelan matter, states the situation correctly when he says that, while President Cleveland's message was one of peace, "behind it has sprung up national sentiment which it would be utter madness on the part of the English people to disregard or underestimate." In other words, the best thing Lord Salisbury can do is to put himself in an arbitrating mood as soon as possible.

It is reported from across the water that Lord Salisbury's position on the Venezuela question is unchanged. It is very noticeable, however, that there is a great deal more talk in England of fixing up the matter without making an enemy of Uncle Sam than was the case a few days ago.

The United States still has nearly a thousand million acres of land for sale. Leaving out Alaska, the government land embraces 600,803,495 acres. A war with England would add British America, but the people of this country are not anxious for war nor greedy for more territory.

Kruger's little republic is larger than New York and New England combined. That is one reason why the British lion is anxious to get its paws on it.

#### Literary Notes.

The Peterson Magazine for January is a gem, artistically, and from a literary standpoint, and the faithfulness with which its publishers have lived up to their promises in the past is a safe augury that the January number is an index to the excellent things to be given in this magazine during the year. The article on Washington—the citizen, soldier, statesman, patriot, alone is worth many times the price of a year's subscription, and "The Forty Immortals" is a treasure-trove of good things. The portraits and illustrations are all of the highest degree of artistic excellence.

Among the many notable features to appear in McClure's Magazine in the next few months, is an article on Col. Ellsworth, by Col. John Hay. Ellsworth's death at Alexandria—"the first conspicuous victim of the war"—although he was only twenty-four, was the dramatic end of a most romantic and picturesque career, and no one knows its details so well as Colonel Hay. Ellsworth "was one of the dearest of the friends of my youth," says Colonel Hay. Moreover, he was a particular favorite and protégé of President Lincoln's when Colonel Hay was Lincoln's private secretary. Colonel Hay's paper, therefore, is one of quite extraordinary interest. There will be published with it some very interesting pictures. E. A. Robinson, who, as editor of the Civil and Military Gazette, at Lahore, India, had Rudyard Kipling for his assistant and lived in the closest intimacy with him, has written a paper telling all about Kipling's life in India—how he ground at the editor's desk, daily doing the drudgery of three or four ordinary men, and making his modest ventures toward a wider fame as opportunity offered; and describing his personal manners and appearance at the time when he was just beginning to be known.

#### Great Offer.

Send me the names and addresses of three or more good canvassers, with 25 cents in postage stamps and I will mail you copy of "The World Family Register" neatly bound, packed and postage prepaid. That sells every where for \$1.00. Elegantly engraved, size 22x28. It cost \$2000 to produce. Address

R. H. STROUSE,  
Indianapolis, Ind.

#### Elwell

Putt Taylor did business in Alma Tuesday.

Clarence Glassburn of Fostoria, O., visited with friends here over Sunday.

Mrs. Stinchcomb of Greenville visited her brother, T. J. Elarton, over Sunday.

H. Bogert has finished his logging job which he had taken from F. E. Pollasky.

Steven Potter and wife of Mt. Pleasant visited with friends here on Saturday last.

Jas. Kirk, who has been visiting with friends here and Alma for the past few weeks, left for his home in Chicago on Monday last.

Ed. Moditt and wife were agreeably surprised on last Friday evening by a number of young people. A very pleasant evening was spent.

We understand that Dick & Shafer have purchased a twenty-five horse power engine for their mill and will be ready in a few days to commence business.

#### Village Council

ALMA, Mich., Dec. 31, 1895.  
Regular meeting of the common council of the village of Alma, Mich., at council room on above date.

Present, President Ely and Trustees Gargett, Kelly, Baker, Delavan and Montigel. Trustee Glass, absent.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and upon motion approved.

The following claims were allowed and the clerk instructed to issue orders for same:

F. E. Shipman night watch.....\$14.50  
W. A. Bahrke attorney fees.....23.50  
J. J. Padelford eng.....13.25

C. L. & G. M. Delavan sup.....3.75  
C. L. & G. M. Delavan w. o.....1.88  
Geo. S. Young surveyor.....7.50

C. W. Baker plank.....14.25  
J. M. Montigel & Co w. o.....8.83  
J. M. Montigel & Co s. w. sup.....21.37

Jas. Howe h. o.....2.50  
Wm. Constable, h. o.....2.45  
M. C. Dallas, street com.....9.45

Standard Oil Co.....9.75  
B. W. Ellison, h. o.....1.00  
F. Kernen, ft and cto......96

H. F. Thompson, h. o.....1.00  
Motion made and supported that the claim of J. W. Morton be referred to the committee on claims. Motion carried.

Motion made and supported that action in the matter of the claim of J. H. Lancashire & Co be deferred indefinitely. Motion carried.

The committee on Fire Department report relative to the matter of re-instating the Alma Fire Department in the State Association that they find that it is the wish of the Department that such action be taken and that membership in the Association will be of much benefit to the Alma Department.

Motion made and supported that five (\$5.00) dollars be appropriated for the use of the Department in gaining such re-instatement.

Upon motion council adjourned.  
T. A. Ely, President. SETH A. TUNN, Clerk.

ALMA, MICH., Jan. 14, 1896.  
Regular meeting of the common council of the Village of Alma on above date.

There were present President Ely and Trustees Glass, Gargett, Montigel, Baker and Delavan. Trustee Kelly being absent.

The minutes of the last regular meeting were read and approved.

Upon motion the following claims were allowed and the clerk instructed to issue orders for same:

Jas. Morrison, oak plank.....\$ 7.95  
L. H. Hay, supplies.....3.58  
W. A. Padelford, engineer's salary.....13.05

L. H. Hay, h. o......50  
Smith & Glass, w. w. o.....1.50  
M. C. Dallas, street com.....1.20

H. J. Vermeulen, supplies.....16.10  
F. E. Shipman, night watch.....1.50  
John Morton, w. o.....2.00

Jas. Howe, h. o.....1.00  
H. F. Thompson, h. o.....1.00  
S. A. Public, postage......50

Motion made and supported that five hundred (\$500.00) dollars be transferred from the general to the water fund. Motion carried.

Trustee Glass gave notice that at the next regular meeting of the common council he would introduce for passage an ordinance to be known as Ordinance No. 25 of the Village of Alma, an ordinance granting permission to the Gratiot County Telephone Co., an organization, to erect, maintain and operate a telephone in the Village of Alma.

On motion council adjourned.  
T. A. Ely, President. SETH A. TUNN, Clerk.

# HERE IT IS.

Just what you have been waiting for.

## BARGAINS

IN

### Dry Goods, Carpets, Capes and Jackets.

Having purchased the entire stock of Dry Goods, Carpets, Capes and Jackets of F. E. Pollasky

### AT A GREAT SACRIFICE

we must and will reduce the stock as quickly as possible. This means a great cut in prices on \$15,000 worth of choice goods. We intend to establish a strictly first-class Dry Goods and Carpet store in Alma, and deem it necessary to introduce ourselves to the public through this the greatest *Slaughter Sale* ever inaugurated in Central Michigan.

## READ OUR PRICES. — COME AND SEE.

We propose to make our bargains open the purses of the closest buyers. For lack of space we quote prices on but few lines, as follows:

5,000 yards Standard LL Sheetting	@ 4c	Children's Heavy Underwear	@ 4 1/2c
3,000 yards Standard Prints	3c	Ladies' Heavy Underwear, former price 25c	15c
3,000 yards Choice Dress Prints	4c	Ladies' Heavy Underwear, former price 35c,	22c
500 yards Crash	3 1/2c	Ladies' Fine, All-Wool, Scarlet and Gray, former price \$1.25,	73c
300 yards Turkey Red Table Linen	18c	500 lbs All-Wool Yarn	30c
5,000 yards Outing Flannel	4c	10 dozen All-Linen Towels, former price 25c,	14c
500 yards Shirting Flannel, former price 20c,	10c	500 rolls Batting	4 1/2c
500 yards Shirting Flannel (All) former price 40c,	20c	200 Blankets, white and gray, former price 75c,	47c
2,000 yards Dress Ginghams, former price 8 and 10c,	5 1/2c	500 yards Ingrain Carpet, former price 35c,	23c
20 pieces Dress Flannels, former price 40c	23c		

ASTRACHAN CAPES, former price \$18.00, now - \$11.50  
PLUSH CAPES AND JACKETS, former price \$1.200, now - 8.00  
FUR CAPES, former price \$7.50, now 5.00

We guarantee satisfaction to all. Come early as the greatest bargains and best goods go first.

## STRICTLY CASH.

# MEDLER & ROGERS.

POLLASKY BLOCK, ALMA, MICH.

Cash paid for Eggs and Poultry.

## CLEAN SWEEP.

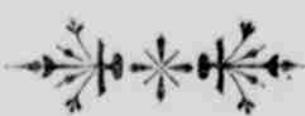
### \$15,000

WORTH OF

Clothing, Furnishing Goods, Trunks, Valises Hats, Caps, etc.

Having sold my entire stock of Dry Goods, Carpets, etc., to Medler & Rogers I propose to close out the balance of my stock and retire from the mercantile business.

## All Must Go.



## Prices Cut No Figure.

You can buy goods at your own reasonable price. Come and get what you want at nearly ONE-HALF PRICE. Don't wait as the best bargains go first.

## F. E. POLLASKY, Alma.